

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05
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FM AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8557
USICA WASHDC IMMEDIATE
INFO AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN
AMEMBASSY GABORONE
AMEMBASSY LAGOS
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA
AMEMBASSY MAPUTO
RUEHSABAMEMBASSY PRETORIA 1394
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L DAR ES SALAAM 1997

CAPE TOWN FOR EMBASSY

USICA PASS USINFO, PGM/RC

E.O. \$*11652: GDS
TAGS: PDEV, SOPN, RH, WA, SF, TZ, US
SUBJECT: SOUTHERN AFRICA: EDITORIAL COMMENT ON PLAYING GAMES
IN NAMIBIA AND RHODESIA

BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED.

1. EDITORIAL IN GOVERNMENT-OWNED DAILY NEWS OF MAY 10 STATED
THAT IN BOTH RHODESIA AND NAMIBIA WHITE MINORITY REGIMES WERE
PLAYING THE GAME OF SEEMING TO ACCEPT SURRENDER TO MAJORITY
RULE WHILE ACTUALLY TRYING TO STRENGTHEN THEIR POSITIONS. "THE
RACISTS HAVE NO MORE DESIRE TO LEAVE NAMIBIA AND RHODESIA
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THAN THEY HAVE HAD IN THE PAST."

2. EDITORIAL SAID MINORITY REGIMES WERE PLAYING THE GAME
PARTLY BECAUSE THE WESTERN FIVE, "ON WHOM THEY DEPEND FOR
SURVIVAL, ARE DETERMINED TO USE THEIR CONSIDERABLE INFLUENCE
TO BRING ABOUT MAJORITY RULE IN SOUTHERN AFRICA. THE FIVE WESTERN
POWERS HAVE THE SUPPORT OF THE MAJORITY OF PEOPLE OF SOUTHERN

AFRICA, OF THE FRONTLINE STATES, OF AFRICA AND OF THE REST OF PROGRESSIVE MANKIND. BUT THE CREDIBILITY OF THE WESTERN POWERS RESTS ON WHAT THEY WILL DO IN THE FACE OF CONTINUED DEFIANCE AND INTRANSIGENCE OF THE RACIST REGIMES."

3. EDITORIAL ASKED HOW BRITISH AND AMERICANS CAN CONTINUE TO BE TAKEN SERIOUSLY IF THEY DON'T FOLLOW UP ON THEIR PROPOSAL FOR RHODESIA BECAUSE SMITH IS RELUCTANT TO ATTEND AN ALL-PARTIES CONFERENCE. SIMILARLY, EDITORIAL WONDERED HOW SERIOUSLY TO TAKE THE DETERMINATION OF THE WESTERN FIVE IF THEIR REACTION TO THE "WANTON MURDER OF HUNDREDS OF NAMIBIANS" IS TO BE LIMITED TO STATEMENTS OF CONDEMNATION. UNLESS THE BRITISH AND AMERICANS FOLLOWED THROUGH ON RHODESIA, AND THE WESTERN FIVE ON NAMIBIA, EDITORIAL CONCLUDED "IT WILL NOT BE LONG BEFORE WE ASK OURSELVES WHETHER OR NOT THE GAME IS BEING PLAYED ONLY TO HOODWINK THE AFRICANS." END UNCLASSIFIED.

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4. COMMENT. EDITORIAL DOES NOT NECESSARILY REFLECT A UNIFIED TANGOV POSITION (NYERERE AND FORNMIN MKAPA HAVE BEEN OUT OF THE COUNTRY FOR SEVERAL DAYS), NON, DO WE THINK, WAS IT INTENDED AS A THREAT. WHAT IT PROBABLY DOES REFLECT IS A GROWING SENSE OF FRUSTRATION THAT THINGS ARE NOT GOING WELL IN SOUTHERN AFRICA. OVER THE PAST YEAR A BREAK IN THE ACTION ON RHODESIA WAS OFTEN FILLED BY A TANGIBLE SIGN OF MOMENTUM ON NAMIBIA, OR
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VICE VERSA. AT THIS MOMENT THE TANZT PNDNS DISCERN NO USEFUL MOTION ON EITHER ISSUE.
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